



# The Roundup



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Lori Bridwell      Carmela Lizzo  
Mike Oster      Mo Wachman

Editor: Lisa Goettsche

To contact the board email [info@rvha.us](mailto:info@rvha.us)

DECEMBER 2016

Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings RVHA Members! Welcome to the second edition of the online *Roundup*. As was previously requested we received several comments from our membership as to how we can enhance our newsletter. As we go forward please continue to offer suggestions and make recommendations. As the year end approaches I would like to reflect on some of the highlights of the past year. The RVHA board of directors has participated in the following projects on behalf of the association:

Transition of the printed newsletter to an electronic publication.

Changed our advertising methods which provide better access to our members by our supportive advertisers.

- We are working with Maricopa County in the ongoing Area Plan update.
- We have been an active participant in the hauled water issue.
- We were involved in the support of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center's efforts to stay in operation at its present location.
- Several RVHA board representatives and members have participated on the City of Scottsdale's Phase 3 Focus Group on trail development for newly acquired McDowell Sonoran Preserve land.
- We are in the process of refocusing the functions of the Area Awareness Committee to ensure that we are cognizant of any new plans or changes for the Rio Verde Foothills.

As always RVHA members are encouraged to submit any comments and ideas to the board of directors. We are receptive to anything you have to offer for the betterment of YOUR association.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HANUKKAH!**

*Marjorie Porter*

## MEMBERSHIP

By Mo Wachman

The year 2016 is winding down and our membership count today is at 543 total members. In November, we begin counting new members for 2017, and already we have 13 new members. With these new members and those who are lifetime or multiple year members, our count is at 126 already for the new year.

With your membership come benefits! Throughout the year we have several different events that everyone can join in on. These events require all types of preparation and **we're always looking for assistance**. If you'd like to offer your time, let us know. We'll be more than happy to put you to work!!!

We'd like to welcome the following people who have become members since our last newsletter:

Glenn & Kristi Banning	Cherie Koss	Ed & Leslie Reith	Brian & Michelle Schober
David & Lorraine Shaw	Martin & Kathi Vidal	Terry & Tiffany White	

Remember, you can renew your membership online at <http://rvha-az.com/membership.htm> using a credit card and PayPal. We also have a renewal form on the website if you prefer to print it out and send it in with a check.

## UP TO YOUR EARS IN AIRCRAFT NOISE?

By Marijo Nolan

### Update and even more reasons to get keep those complaints filed!

Aviation staff was notified by Senator McCain's office about federal legislative action addressing the negative impacts to Phoenix neighborhoods from airplane noise caused by RNAV flight procedures.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017 was passed by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees recently. The Act includes language that would specifically require the FAA to re-evaluate RNAV impacts to Phoenix neighborhoods and consider alternative flight paths.

The full House and full Senate are expected to consider the conference committee version of NDAA with an up or down vote. While the language does not direct the FAA to go back to the old flight paths, it gives the City a new lever that requires the FAA to seriously review alternative flight path options.

This effort is a result of the commitment of our congressional delegation to Phoenix, the continuous pressure of the Mayor and City Council, and the work of our federal lobbyists at Holland and Knight and the Aviation Department staff. We anticipate some press activity may occur after House and Senate action.

The specific language is located in subtitle E, sec.341, and starts on page 180 of the conference report, which can be found here: <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20161128/CRPT-114HRPT-S2943.pdf>

In September 2014, the FAA changed the flight paths to and from Sky Harbor Airport as part of NextGen, a program to modernize U.S. airspace by using satellite based navigation in order to increase efficiency, improve safety, and reduce CO 2 emissions. Essentially, the new flight paths, which formerly fanned the Valley and dispersed the noise impact, are concentrated into narrow corridors at lower altitudes. This narrow corridor significantly increased the flow of air traffic directly over the western section of the Rio Verde Foothills. Headings for departures and arrivals were also changed, all done without the input of the Phoenix Aviation Department or the community at large. Noise complaints at Sky Harbor skyrocketed, and the city of Phoenix filed a lawsuit against the FAA in 2015. Residents of the Phoenix Historic District filed as well.

NextGen also impacted smaller airports across the Valley, changing their flight paths and lowering their altitudes to accommodate Sky Harbor commercial traffic. Most notably for us, of course, are Scottsdale Airport and Deer Valley Airport. Flight schools from both airports circle overhead while private and corporate jets roar in from Bartlett Lake and beyond.

Not all North Valley and Rio Verde Foothills residents experience the never ending din of aircraft; but for those who do, here's what you can do to help restore peace and quiet to your neighborhood. Email your congressmen, the mayor of Scottsdale, and members of Scottsdale City Council. File complaints at the appropriate airport, Sky Harbor or Scottsdale. Encourage your neighbors, friends and family to do the same. The more households that participate, the more impact we residents have.

File a complaint! Let's make sure that the FAA is well aware of NextGen's impact on North Valley residents, especially those in the Rio Verde Foothills.

Sky Harbor Noise Complaints-Go to [www.skyharbor.com/flightpaths](http://www.skyharbor.com/flightpaths). Download the complaint app for your Smart Phone. To file by phone, 602-683-2669, or Scottsdale Airport-Go to <https://eservices.scottsdaleaz.gov/CoS311/Problem/SubmitProblem>



Enjoying Our Friendly Neighbors in the Rio Verde Foothills  
Connie Bray

I recently noticed a variety of people driving opposite of me giving a brief wave, which caused a smile to come to my face, especially since it's rather stressful now driving on Rio Verde Drive. I found that these brief signs of friendship brightened my morning and again upon returning home. For those who have been around when it was very rural out here, do you recall waving to passing cars while traveling on Rio Verde? Imagine that now.

## AN AMAZING, AWESOME ADVENTURE

By Lori Bridwell

Recently, social media and local Phoenix TV stations were all abuzz with the news that the British limbless men's ex-soldiers' association called "Blesma" would be arriving at our own Arizona Cowboy College.



Blesma is a non-profit organization located in the United Kingdom which raises money to send British service members who have lost limbs in the military service of their country. Their various adventures can be just about anywhere in the



world and assist them in coping with their medical issues and where they realize they can be active, happy and still contribute to society.

At first, we were hesitant to have these veterans come to ride horses and learn to rope cattle, not knowing just how capable they would be. Let me tell you they were amazing! We were educated on the latest in prosthetics. New ones need to be plugged in and recharged. So, my first experience with this was when I tried to unplug the lights in the bunkhouse and heard Stuart say, "you unplugged my leg!" I was horrified but they all had the best sense of humor about their challenges.

As the week progressed we were so amazed that each and every one of these men could catch, groom and saddle their horses. After only a couple of days they could mount their horses without using a mounting block. Two of the men were double leg amputees, one was missing an arm, one missing a leg and the use of an arm, another was missing one leg, and the last man just had his leg prosthesis for only two months.

After two days at our local ranch we headed to our out-of-town ranch to brand calves, rope a bit and ride the beautiful Arizona desert. Wednesday night we headed to the new Buffalo Chip in Cave Creek. They all had a chance to sit on a bull! The folks at the "Chip" made them all feel very special.

Each evening at the ranch we ended the day's work with picking and singing around the campfire, sharing tall tales of the day's activities. At the end of the week we took them to the Boot Barn since they were all "cowboys" now. After that we headed to the Cave Creek Museum, and Harold's Saloon before heading off to the airport. Our goodbyes were filled with tears and hugs.

This group of brave, disabled men taught me lessons I'll never forget. I hope someday we'll meet again.

<https://blesma.org/>



## Believe in the Magic

Terry Holmes-Stecyk

In a child's mind, not much in the year compares to the anticipation of Christmas morning. December for us usually began with the Christmas tree being placed in the living room, lights added, boxes of ornaments placed on the tree, and finally the angel or star on top. My grandfather, Pop-pop, would take me out on horseback and we'd find just the right tree to cut and drag home. Once I picked one so tall he had to cut a couple of feet off both ends for it to fit in the ranch house. He and Grandma would assemble a village on a platform full of whimsical houses, horses of course

and an old-fashioned train set to figure eight around the heavily adorned tree. I loved to lay under the tree and dream of the coming special day.

Soon we'd be waking up and finding wrapped presents scattered under the tree, brought by a magical man from the North Pole with a sleigh and eight reindeer. But first, we'd grab our stockings stuffed with candy, fruit, and special luxury items of scented soap or bubble bath and gleefully dump the contents on the floor to find a special gift at the bottom. For me, that gift was usually a new horse figure.

The night before we'd attend Christmas Eve services and once home, we'd get to open one gift. It was always brand new pajamas. Now I know that was so we'd look clean and fresh for pictures during the Christmas morning chaos. Once Mom and Dad were up, we'd circle around and they'd hand out gifts one by one. We'd rip open paper to find those items we'd asked Santa to bring. Oh the joy and happiness I felt to get that new Barbie doll, a new pair of pink cowboy boots, even a new curry comb. It was a marvelous and magical experience.

Sadly, I got older, kids at schooled talked and I began to question the authenticity of this magical man. Mom and Dad were concerned I'd spoil it for my younger brothers so they hatched a plan.

It was one of the rare white Christmas eves in Prescott. After we'd gone to bed they'd punched holes in the snow to look like hoof prints. They'd taken goat manure pellets and sprinkled them around the snow. Mom scattered glitter everywhere. Dad rang bells and made quite a clatter outside. Well, after all that noise, plus seeing that sight in the early morning, I was hooked for another year.

As I look back on my many fond Christmas memories, this is one of the most precious to me. It wasn't the gifts they'd bought and wrapped, but that my parents wanted me to believe and took those extra measures to keep the magic of the season real for me. That was the best gift of all, their love and time.

May you all believe in the magic and find the love, joy and peace this wondrous season brings.

Merry Christmas!

### The Little Red Chaps by Diana Cash

Bobby was born in November 1958 in Phoenix, Arizona to Sonny and Vonnie Leiler. At the age of 4, he and his parents and his older brother, Danny, moved to a 10-acre piece of land at the end of Fig Springs Road in New River. His family shared those 10 acres with Bobby's uncles (Tony, Jesse and Dean), aunts (Joanne, Frieda and Tessa) and 6 young cousins.

In the middle of the property, there was a dirt stock tank for the range cattle, with two towering cottonwood trees that became home to many a tree house. The stock tank served as an ocean for Bobby; with an old trunk for a boat and a stick for a paddle, he was transformed into a Marauding Pirate or a Wise Old Captain of the Sea.



Because they had no electricity, Vonnie cooked over a campfire, and water was hoisted up from the well with a bucket. To be safe from the snakes and scorpions, Bobby slept in the bed of the truck until he got his own hammock at the age of 8.

For his 7th birthday, Bobby's Grandpa John (a Colorado Cowboy) gave him a pony, who he named Sugar. She became Bobby's best friend; carrying him all around the desert and always bringing him home safely once again. Many times, the two pals were gone from sunup to sundown. Bob now says, "It was a freedom experienced by few young boys, and it taught me to have respect for the land and the animals. It gave me a love for the wildlife and for the beauty of the desert."

When Bobby's Uncle Tony saw the new pony, he knew that coming from a family of cowboys, Little Bobby would need his own pair of chaps. Tony had learned the art of leather crafting after a construction accident at the age of 20 left him wheelchair-bound for life. He chose rich red leather for the chaps, with white for the hearts and fringe.

When Bobby saw them, he was overjoyed to know that he now owned his very own chaps just like his Grandpa John,

Father Sonny, Uncle Tony and Brother Danny. "I was so excited; I couldn't wait to go for a ride. Needless to say, I went through every brush pile and mesquite tree I could find. I think I even tried them out on a cactus or two. I'm pretty sure Sugar liked our rides better before I had my chaps, because she didn't have to crash through the trees and the brush quite as much."

"I was living every young boy's dream, out in the wilderness with my pony...no rules...nobody telling me what to do. It will always be one of the greatest times of my life."

50 years later, Little Bobby's chaps now hang on the wall of Grandpa Bob's living room. They are a poignant reminder of a simpler time, when all a cowboy needed to feel complete in his life were a pony named Sugar and some Little Red Chaps.

## Elegant Angelwear – Angel Gown Program

By Lisa Goettsche

Tara Haeley Novotny decided to volunteer her time when she saw the special gowns being made for babies who never make it home with their parents. "I saw a post on Facebook sharing the story of a lady who donated her wedding dress, and the resulting gowns made from it. It brought me to tears. Both of my boys were premies, and we spent some time in the NICU with them. There were some babies much tinier who weren't so lucky as ours. I knew I had to join this effort and sew for parents in our own community who lose their babies."

Beautiful dresses that were once worn at weddings are sewn into gowns for babies who never go home from the hospital. It's called the Angel Gown Program. Most of the donations have resulted from social networking on Facebook but personal friends also donate their wedding dresses. Michelle Matthews from Washington started in 2012 with her own wedding dress. She made tiny gowns for babies who passed away, as gifts for the grieving parents at her local hospital's NICU. With social media and media coverage of her own mission and others who have followed suit, word has spread. There are now hundreds of seamstresses all over the country and internationally who have joined in. "We all share a common goal, to offer special burial gowns (and other items like bunting wraps, blankets, hats, and more) to hospitals for the parents of their tiniest patients who sadly will not go home with their new families," said Tara.

Tara decided to start her own group, Elegant Angelwear. "We have an amazing group of volunteers working together, most of whom are right here in our Rio Verde Foothills community. I can't say enough good about these awesome ladies freely offering their time and resources to help us make the gowns for donation." Tara wants to serve some East valley hospitals that previously haven't been receiving these donations. As it turns out, the bereavement coordinator from HonorHealth Scottsdale Shea lives right here in Rio Verde and reached out to Tara. The group has been able to fully supply the hospital's needs. They plan to expand with gown donations to Scottsdale Osborn next, with others to follow as the volunteer group grows.

"We can always use more volunteers! If anyone else in our community is interested in getting involved, there are many ways besides sewing that you can help out, so please contact us!"

Photos of the beautiful angel gowns created along with the wedding gowns can be seen on Tara's Facebook page. It has been a great way to share what the group and its volunteers are accomplishing.

Email: [ElegantAngelwear@gmail.com](mailto:ElegantAngelwear@gmail.com)

Facebook: Elegant Angelwear





## Dogtor T, the Pet Vet

By Melissa Thompson, DVM, CVC

The holidays are fast approaching; there are already ads on TV for choosing that right gift for under the tree: the hottest new toy, a beautiful diamond necklace, the perfect flat screen and hey, why not a puppy? While you probably wouldn't get more "aww" factor from any other gift, there are a few things you should think of before you pick out the new little family member.

First, does the person in question really want a pet? Taking on a four-legged member of the family is a large responsibility and a decision not to be taken lightly. Pets need care, not just as puppies or kittens, but through their whole life which can be 10-15+ years. This includes the fun stuff like playing fetch, going for walks, teaching cool tricks, but it also means feeding, bathing, cleaning up after them and the all so important and sometimes ever so burdensome vet care.

Second, it's the holidays. Is this really the right time to bring a pet into the house? We all know how stressed we get at the holidays: the shopping, company, crazy schedules. Between dealing with the in-laws, cooking and traveling, is there going to be time to take care of the pet? Sure little Sally was very excited when she got the new puppy Christmas morning, but what about later that afternoon when it chewed her new doll's hand off? And now you need to pack up the car and go to Casa Grande for dinner, what are we going to do with the dog?

So if you've decided that a pet would still be a good gift for the person in question, but maybe Christmas day would not be the best time to give them Fido or Fluffy, consider a gift certificate. A few shelters in other large cities have sold gift certificates for adoptions. If local shelters don't have that program available, make your own gift certificate. You may not get that perfect photo op on Christmas morning, but together as a family you can go and pick out your next companion after the holidays are over. It is important that everyone in the family is involved in this process and agrees not only what type of pet to get, but what size, temperament and activity level will be the best fit. There are numerous shelters and rescues in the Phoenix area including our very own **Four Peaks Animal Rescue**. Take a look at this web page which lists numerous shelters and pure bred rescues and contact them individually for more information. <http://www.petfinder.com>

For those of you that still plan on getting that new family member for Christmas morning or already have pets at home, here is a list of some *Holiday Hazards* for our four legged friends:

- Toxic plants- please keep poinsettias, holly and mistletoe out of reach
- Food
  - Chocolate - if giving a box of chocolates as a gift, do not leave it under the tree or anywhere else a pet can get access to. A chemical component to chocolate can actually cause liver failure in dogs and cats.
  - Macadamia nuts are a big no-no too
  - Table scraps/bones- a sudden change in your pet's diet can cause diarrhea and can definitely put a damper on holiday plans. Foods high in fat can lead to pancreatitis which can be a life threatening condition requiring emergency care. Bones - especially poultry - are prone to splintering and can lodge anywhere in the gastrointestinal tract and may require surgical removal
- Tree decorations
  - Electrical cords and lights on the tree - many pets are hurt from chewing on the wires
  - Tinsel - cats *think* this is a great toy, it's shiny and fun to pull off the tree - but can cause intestinal blockage if swallowed
  - Ornament hooks - again dangerous if swallowed
- Getting lost - with so many visitors coming and going during the holidays, it is not uncommon for pets to get out the front door or an open gate. Make sure your pet has on a collar with current contact info. A microchip is an added form of identification. Contact your local vet or shelter for more information on how to get your pet microchipped.

## The Joy and Stress of the Holidays

The holidays... A time of comfort and joy? Not for all of us. Many of us stress over the merry season. Here are some tips for holiday survival and how to have fun!

1. Don't overschedule. If you're feeling overwhelmed by your holiday agenda, attend only the events that are most meaningful to you. Don't be ruled by guilt or fear of what others will say if you don't go to their party. In doing so, you live by their rules instead of your own. Give yourself permission to say no. You will be so grateful that you did!
2. Shop early and avoid long lines and crowds. The earlier you start your shopping, the better. Getting it out of the way early relieves a lot of stress! Plus, you beat last minute shoppers, crowds and long lines. If you do find you're stuck in a line that isn't moving, take a deep breath and exhale slowly. Repeat and feel the tension melt away! Pass the time by making a grocery list or cleaning out your wallet. Being occupied passes the time quickly and you are productive, too!
3. Staying calm with not-so-well-meaning relatives. If a relative makes a comment that triggers a hot button, try to respond positively. For example, if you are sensitive about your weight and Mom points out that you are already having seconds of turkey, try this: "Yes, your turkey is so delicious that I just have to have more." Take the high road and stand proud!
4. Avoiding holiday debt. Keep holiday spending in check by setting an overall budget; then divide that into specific dollar amounts for each gift recipient. Focus on meaningful gifts over pricey gifts. Homemade gifts can be much more meaningful than a store-bought sweater. How about a framed picture of family members? Or create a coupon book offering to babysit or cook a meal. Home-baked cookies or pumpkin bread can be a tasty and thoughtful gift.
5. Keeping weight off during the holidays. Parking farther away at the mall and taking stairs with your packages can help keep the pounds off. Take a morning walk to start the day on a healthy and energizing note. And how about meeting a friend for a hike? Simple steps (no pun intended!) can go a long way to keep you on target.
6. Let go of perfection. It is easy to fall victim of perfectionism during the holidays. The need for the perfect dress, perfect decorations, perfect gift. Perfection is often tied to the need for approval from others. Remember this: The only person you need approval from is you. Is it good enough for you? That's all that matters!
7. Turn grief and loss of a loved one into a celebration of their life. Nothing can be more heartbreaking than living through the first holiday season after a loved one has passed. For some, putting on a holiday tribute in their memory to celebrate and honor their life and remember the joyful times can bring a smile to you and all those who were close to them. Maybe each person brings a memento of that person who passed, be it a photo, poem, or a dish made from their favorite recipe. Remembering and rejoicing can be very healing. Most importantly, allow yourself to grieve. There is no time frame for how long the grieving process "should" take or how long it will take. Please be kind and patient with yourself during this delicate time.
8. Enjoy yourself! This is the most important tip of all. Do what makes you happy. You deserve to have fun in life, especially during the holidays! So enjoy yourself, the people you love, and the meaning behind the holidays. It's really what the spirit of the season is all about!

Karen Gray, CPC  
Certified Professional Coach  
Equine Assisted Coach  
[www.LifeEnrichmentCoaching.net](http://www.LifeEnrichmentCoaching.net)



## WE WERE HERE FIRST: SHARING THE DESERT WITH OUR “CRITTERS”

By Jan Ferris

Growing up in the Midwest, I saw an occasional mouse, spider, and those pesky mosquitoes. Here in the desert, we have a much larger variety of large and small critters. Scorpions are my least favorites, followed by rattlesnakes. A few years ago, I saw what I thought was a piece of food on my kitchen floor. When I picked it up, I realized that it was a small scorpion, in the throes of death. (Thank goodness I spray Insect Killer every month!) However, it had just enough life left to sting my finger. (The pain lasted for two days.) Another “Scorpion Sighting” was in my garage. This one was dead, but it was huge -- four inches from head to tail!

My rattlesnake encounters total three so far. I was cleaning out brush from under a tree and heard its distinctive rattle. Wasting no time, I rushed back into the house and called Rural Metro. When they arrived, Mr. Snake had slithered away somewhere farther into the desert. The second rattler experience happened one evening when a neighbor knocked on my door and said, “Did you know that you have a rattlesnake on top of the hill in front of your house?” Thankfully, he took care of it. Snake Number Three was at my neighbor’s house on her patio, outside of the sliding glass door. Of course, I had to go over and see it, provided I was on the inside looking out. It showed its displeasure by rattling continuously. Maybe it was his way of saying, “I’m here, and I’m not going to move!” Once again, a friend took care of it for us.

An unusual snake somehow ended up in my living room. It was very small and looked like an earthworm. After securing it in a glass jar, I researched this funny little worm/snake.. It was a Western Blind Snake or Threadsnake. Since it usually lives underground and has no use for eyes, it has under developed eyes. (You learn something every day!)

Birds usually are non-threatening. Hawks, however, are a threat to small animals, including pets. I’m not very fond of woodpeckers, either. A Saguaro cactus, which used to be in the front of my house, was a favorite target for “Woody” and his friends. They pecked away at it, and, eventually, it fell over from all of the holes. Heavy rains didn’t help, either, since cacti do not have deep roots. Woodpeckers also like to peck on top of chimneys. The first time I heard a noise coming from my fireplace, I was startled until I realized it was another woodpecker, sharpening his beak.

Quail families are fun to watch. Mama and Papa lead the troops of youngsters, and they are fast moving on the ground, unless they need to fly away quickly. Another interesting bird is the Roadrunner. (Beep Beep) I don’t see very many, but when I do, I always think of the cartoon.

My favorite birds are hummingbirds. I have a feeder outside my kitchen window, and sometimes two of them will fight for feeding rights. They don’t seem to be afraid of humans, and I have approached them quietly and slowly, and they keep on feeding. One time, when I hadn’t put out the feeder, I was standing in front of my kitchen window, and one little guy flew right up to the window. I think he was trying to tell me, “Where is my nectar?”

Larger animals also live in our desert. Coyotes are common, and their howling usually signifies the catch of some poor rabbit. As I was driving home one dark night on Alma School, one ran right in front of my car, and I heard a “thud.” I turned around because I was afraid it might have been a dog, but it was Wiley Coyote, or maybe one of his relatives. I killed it, but it had gotten its revenge because my car engine was destroyed and had to be replaced.

I’ve had only two sightings of Javelinas showing up around my house. I have learned that they are not members of the pig family, but are rodents. Hmmm--pretty big for a rodent. Another large animal that visited me was a bobcat. He was on my patio, outside of the sliding glass door, which was closed. I thought at first that it was a neighbor’s cat. When I realized it was a bobcat, I wanted to take its picture, but by the time I found my camera, he had disappeared.

I’ve had my share of mice in the garage, but they are quick and hard to catch. Desert Sonoran toads are nasty, and if a dog bites into one, its poison makes them very ill, and some even die. My neighbor’s dog bit one, but after she hosed out the dog’s mouth with water and took him to the Vet, he survived.

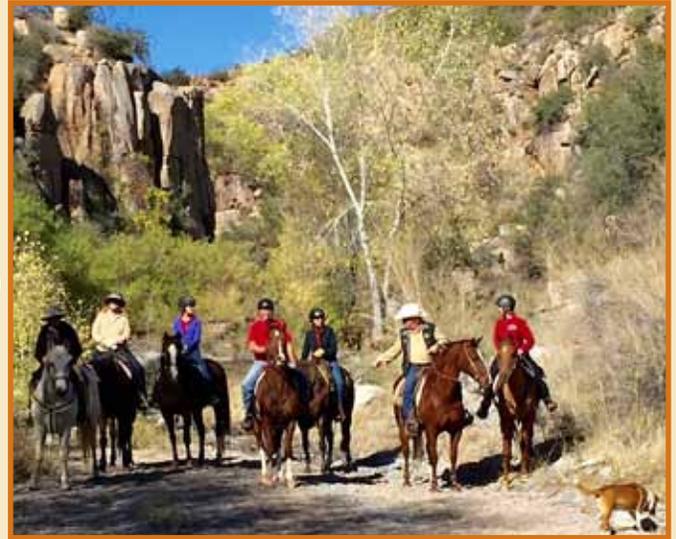
Geckos are fascinating to watch when they climb walls, just like Spiderman. I have written a children’s book about two gecko sisters. They have lots of adventures in the desert and survive encounters with deadly as well as friendly critters. Of course, they always escape so they can go on their next adventure. Hopefully, I will publish this book soon! I haven’t seen the Geico Gecko yet, but, if I do, I think I’ll ask him for a discount on my insurance!

## First Annual RVHA Cold Turkey Trail Ride

By Jenny Powers

The RVHA First Annual Cold Turkey Trail Ride on November 25 at Camp Creek in the Tonto National Forest was a tremendous success. Eight horses and riders enjoyed spectacular weather, stunning scenery, challenging trails and good company. We were delighted to encounter a herd of six mule deer early in the ride and visited a waterfall in a pretty box canyon. After the ride we enjoyed turkey sandwiches and great conversation back at the trailers.

RVHA Trail Ride Committee members Jenny Powers, Terry Stecyk, Sue McLain and Margaret Bohanan participated along with RVHA members Stephany Sitari and Bob Elmore, guests Betty Rimsza and Steve Powers, plus Hobbit, trail dog extraordinaire. All the horses and riders handled the hills, washes, fallen trees, and tiny creek easily and there were no complaints, perhaps due to the ride leader's "no whining" t-shirt. Make plans to join the RVHA Trail Ride Committee for the next ride, January 22. This will be a group ride from Cave Creek Outfitters with rental horses available for RVHA members and guests. More information will be available soon. Happy Trails!



### RVHA Winter Trail Ride and Lunch Sunday, January 22, 2017

**Where:** Tonto National Forest / McDowell Sonoran Preserve  
Horses need to be able to walk over a step-over.  
This ride is good for all levels of experience.

Meet at Cave Creek Outfitters, 31313 N. 144th Street  
You are welcome to bring your own horses.  
\*Or horse rentals are available through Cave Creek Outfitters  
Please park your trailers along 144th, near the entrance to Cave Creek Outfitters.

**Time:** Gather at 9:30 AM. We'll ride out at 10:00 AM SHARP!  
Ride will be a 1 1/2 to 2-hour ride followed by lunch.

**Lunch:** Sandwiches, chips and dessert. Beverages too!  
Come for the ride, stay for lunch or just come join us at noon for the lunch and great company.

Members lunch: \$8  
Non-members lunch: \$10  
Horse rentals: \$50  
You can go to our RVHA website for payment via PayPal.

Have any questions?  
Please contact Terry@RVHA.us  
<http://rvha-az.com/calendar.htm>

\*Please contact Cave Creek Outfitters at 480-471-4635 for horse rentals as they will need specific information on age, weight, experience.....

Thank you!

